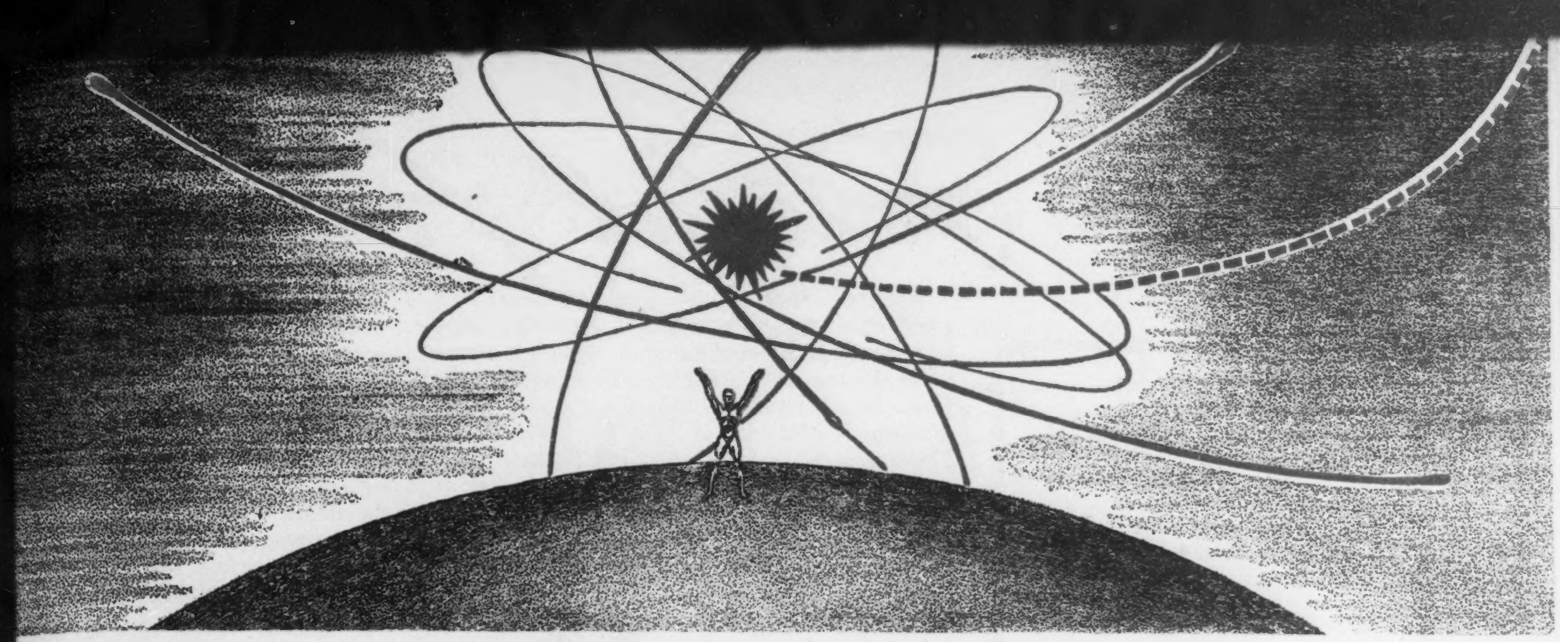

MAN vs ATOM – YEAR 1

WHEREIN WE SIGNALIZE THE FIRST ANNIVERSARY OF THE ATOMIC AGE, CONSIDER THE ALTERNATIVES INHERENT IN BOTH GOOD AND EVIL POTENTIALITIES OF NUCLEAR FISSION, THEN VENTURE A GLIMPSE INTO THE FUTURE

A YEAR AGO, July 16, 1945, at Alamogordo, New Mexico, man created the first atomic explosion. Most impressive events diminish in stature as they recede in time. This one grows bigger with each passing day. It truly marked the beginning of a new age.

As Year 1 of the Atomic Age ends and Year 2 begins, we are engaged in three portentous projects.

At Bikini Atoll we are detonating the fourth and, possibly, the fifth atomic explosions in the history of the world.

At Oak Ridge, Tennessee, we are building the first atomic energy plant for peaceful purposes.

Most important, in New York we and all the other United Nations are engaged in the first attempt to subject atomic energy to international control. Literally, the fate of the world hangs on this attempt.

As this introduction is written, the United Nations Atomic Energy Commission has just begun its work. People everywhere pray for its success—for their own sake, but even more for their children and for their grandchildren. If this Commission fails let everyone everywhere be warned: the world has taken a step toward destruction.

As we enter the second year of the Atomic Age, the nations of the earth are embarked on an atomic armaments race. There is no blinking that fact. We have had official notice served on us. Therefore, we must understand that unless the United Nations Commission can arrest the drift of events, we are moving toward a horrible war. The Commission must succeed.

The American delegate, Mr. Baruch, has brought to the Commission an ably thought out plan. It would internationalize nuclear science, and release for mankind the beneficent applications of atomic energy. But it would "control" atomic bombs only to the extent of giving the world brief warning of any nation's preparation to use them, so that we might have foreknowledge of disaster.

Therefore, the real and enormous task before the world becomes clear. We must end war. No other control of atomic weapons exists. If war comes, atomic weapons will be used. If they are used, our children who survive will curse their fathers. Understanding the consequences of failure, we *must* succeed.

Because we cannot succeed without knowledge, I have asked my associates at McGraw-Hill to condense into the following pages what we know at the close of Year 1 about this great new atomic force — its basic science, its possible uses and its political repercussions.

James H. McGraw, Jr.

President, McGraw-Hill Publishing Co., Inc.

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This Fateful Atom...

LOOKING BACK twelve months to the birth of Year 1, Atomic Age, we begin to sense the majestic import of the atomic bomb that blasted the naked desert at Alamogordo, N. M., on July 16, 1945. There man first shattered atoms in an explosive *fast-chain* reaction. Then came Hiroshima and Nagasaki.

In every case the fateful atom was either uranium 235 (U235), or plutonium derived from the action of U235 on U238. Every pound of U235 atoms split in these unprecedented blasts yielded the energy of 11.4 million kilowatt-hours, or 1400 tons of coal — slightly more for plutonium.

No matter where one mines uranium ore, the purified natural uranium (Fig. 1) always contains 99.3% of the "garden" variety U238, and a mere 0.7% of the precious U235.

An atom is like our solar system. The central sun is the nucleus — a bunched mass of protons and neutrons, each weighing one unit. The planets are electrons. Each proton has one plus electrical charge — each electron an equal negative charge. There must be as many negative electron planets as positive protons in the nucleus. This is also the "number" of the atom. Neutrons have no charge, but add weight.

The atomic number of uranium is 92 because the uranium atom always has 92 nuclear protons and 92 electron planets. The isotopes U238 and U235 differ only in the number of neutrons; U238 has 146 neutrons, and weighs $92 + 146 = 238$ units. U235 has 143 neutrons, and weighs $92 + 143 = 235$ units.

Ordinary chemical reactions, such as TNT explosions, release only a fraction of the modest energy of the whirling electrons in the outer atom. Nuclear reactions unlock the immensely greater energies which bind together the nucleus.

Even the gentle tap of a slow-moving neutron bullet will split the atom of U235 or of man-made plutonium into two medium-weight atoms, yielding also one to three spare neutrons plus energy. Thus these *fissionable* materials supply both their own bullets and a highly sensitive lot of high-explosive targets — a perfect setup for a *chain reaction* (Fig. 2).

Chain reactions work like chain letters. Neutrons from one nuclear explosion hit and explode other nuclei. But, since atoms are mostly open spaces a chain started in a small block of U235 or plutonium quickly dies out because most of the released neutrons escape from the block.

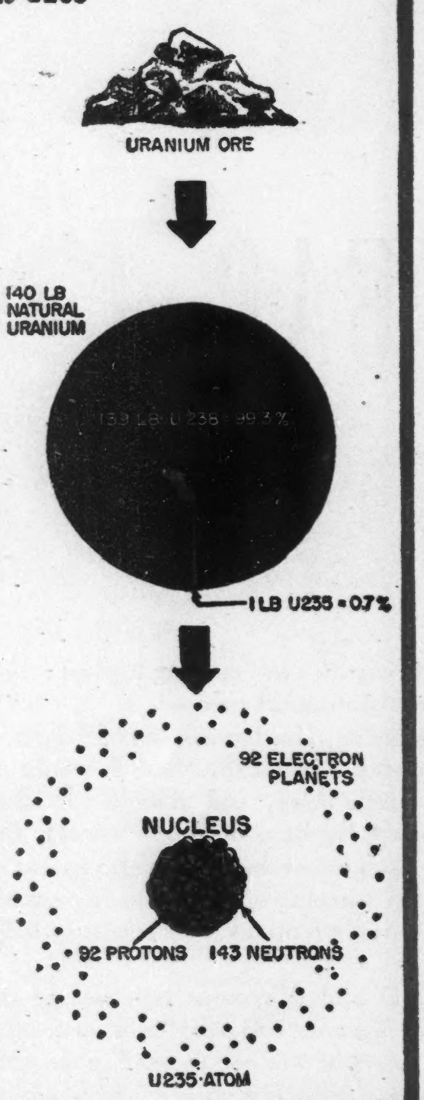
The bigger the block, the smaller will be the percentage of escaping neutrons, and the more left to split other nuclei. When the block is rapidly built up beyond a certain secret size the fragments of 1000 nuclear fissions split many more than 1000 additional nuclei. Then fissions multiply geometrically, and the block disintegrates with explosive speed and violence — as in a bomb (Fig. 3).

This bomb explosion is a fast-neutron chain. For economy and ease of control, uranium piles for the gradual release of nuclear energy for commercial purposes will normally use a lean fuel — that is U235 or plutonium diluted with U238, thorium or other less costly materials.

To maintain a chain reaction such piles must be large and artificially stimulated by using carbon blocks or some other *moderator* (Fig. 4) to slow many of the neutrons. Slow neutrons make more hits than fast neutrons because there is more time for them to be swerved from a straight path by the attraction of nearby nuclei, as shown below.

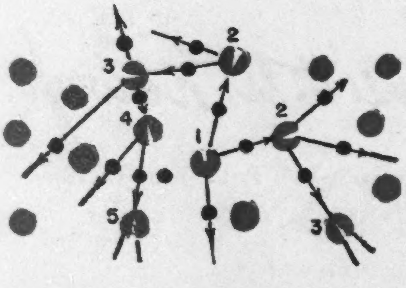
1 ORE TO U235

Only 0.7% of natural uranium is U235



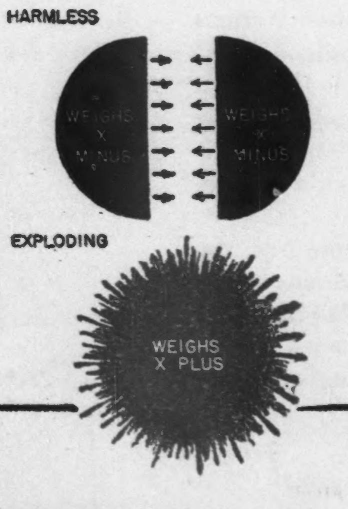
2 CHAIN REACTION

Fragments from earlier nuclear explosions smash other nucleii



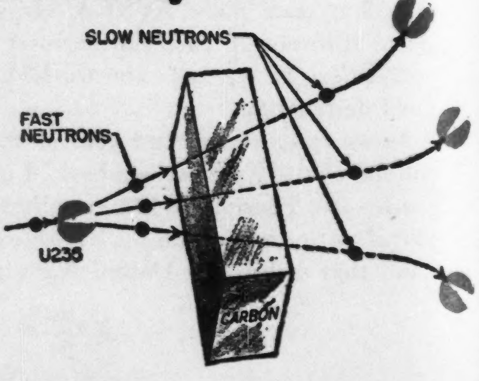
3 WHY BOMB EXPLODES

When block of rapidly assembled U235 passes secret critical size it explodes spontaneously



4 SLOW NEUTRONS MAKE MORE HITS

A slow neutron is more easily swerved from a straight line



can Serve Man . . .

THE FATEFUL U235 ATOM can serve man as a new, compact source of heat energy for power generation, comfort heating or industrial processing. Peacetime applications of atomic energy will use dilute U235 or plutonium as a "fuel," mixed with carbon or some other moderator to slow some of the neutrons and thus keep the chain reaction going.

The diluting agent may be either U238 or thorium, or both. These will do double duty, because neutron bullets convert U238 into the energy-yielding plutonium, and thorium into U233, which may prove equally serviceable.

Thus the commercial piles of the future will "burn" U235 to make other atomic fuels, plutonium and possibly U233, which in turn will deliver heat energy to the pile. In that way it will be possible to get from the pile far more heat than the equivalent of 1400 tons of coal for each pound of U235 split. This highly attractive prospect will speed the day when nuclear energy can compete with coal.

While already mechanically obsolete, the piles making plutonium for bombs at Hanford, Wash. (Fig. 1) reveal the basic principle on which future piles for power and heat will operate. The heat now wasted in vast quantities will be put to work. The plutonium, now removed for bomb manufacture, will be returned to the pile (or left in) as supplementary fuel.

ATOMIC POWER

The possible everyday applications of nuclear heat pictured in Fig. 2 have been recognized from the very first day of the Atomic Age. Year 2 will see the building of the world's first atomic power plant (a pilot plant) at Oak Ridge, Tenn.

Beyond question such installations will produce power, but it may be years or decades before they prove economical. To compete with conventional plants the piles must first be redesigned to run at temperatures high enough for good power-plant efficiency. Also the techniques of operating piles by remote control through the heavy radiation screens must be radically streamlined.

The Hanford piles run on natural uranium containing only 0.7% of U235. The typical commercial atomic power plant of the future will use more than 0.7% of U235 or plutonium, but less than 50%. This will avoid both the low efficiency of the too-lean mixture and the excessive fuel cost of the rich mixture. It will permit piles of moderate size and take maximum advantage of U238 and thorium as potential sources of plutonium and U233.

One should not expect U235 to replace coal generally in this generation, although a few central power stations and ships will try it out before Year 10 of the Atomic Age. Plants far from traditional sources of fuels may turn much sooner to uranium and thorium as concentrated heat sources, that may easily be transported even to remote corners of the earth.

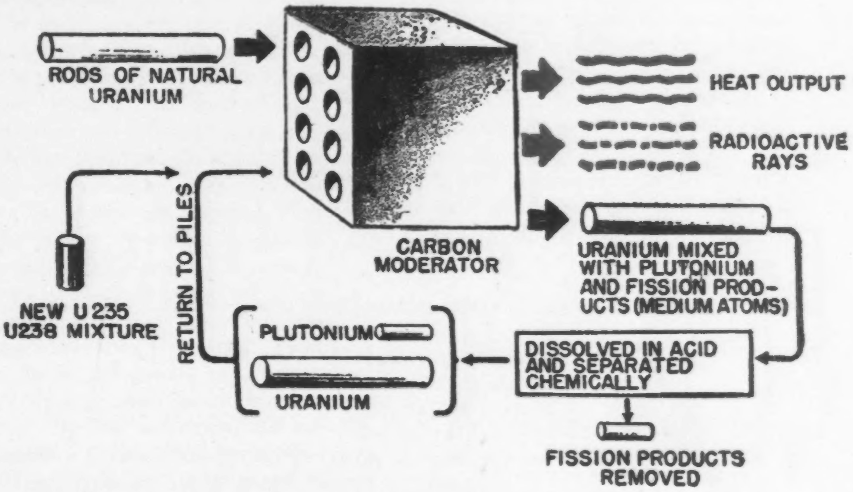
Atomic power, in forms now known, is impracticable for automobiles and small airplanes, because of the large initial investment in uranium and the need to carry 50 tons of shielding to protect riders and pedestrians against the deadly radioactivity accompanying nuclear fission.

RADIOACTIVE ISOTOPES

More immediately important than the heat and power applications of nuclear energy are the services that the radioactive byproducts of pile operation can render. Because these materials act chemically like their ordinary non-radioactive cousins, but can be followed and detected easily, they are expected to play tremendously vital parts in medicine and biology. For more details, see the last page of this section.

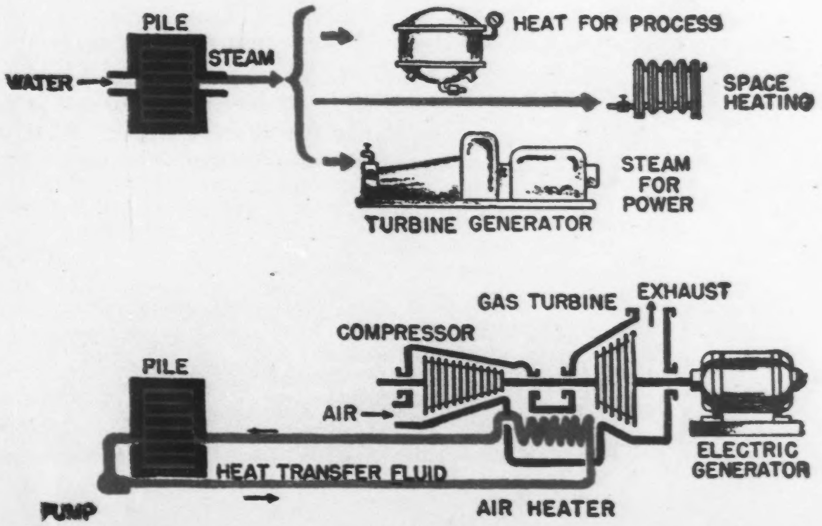
1 SLOW-NEUTRON PILE

Can make plutonium for bombs—or heat for power, process and comfort


RODS OF NATURAL URANIUM
HEAT OUTPUT
RADIOACTIVE RAYS
RETURN TO PILES
CARBON MODERATOR
URANIUM MIXED WITH PLUTONIUM AND FISSION PRODUCTS (MEDIUM ATOMS)
NEW U 235 + U238 MIXTURE
PLUTONIUM
URANIUM
DISSOLVED IN ACID AND SEPARATED CHEMICALLY
FISSION PRODUCTS REMOVED

2 PRACTICAL APPLICATIONS

Include steam for turbines, process and comfort heating—also heat for gas turbines


PILE
WATER
STEAM
HEAT FOR PROCESS
SPACE HEATING
STEAM FOR POWER
TURBINE GENERATOR
GAS TURBINE
EXHAUST
COMPRESSOR
PILE
AIR
ELECTRIC GENERATOR
HEAT TRANSFER FLUID
PUMP
AIR HEATER

or Destroy him . . .

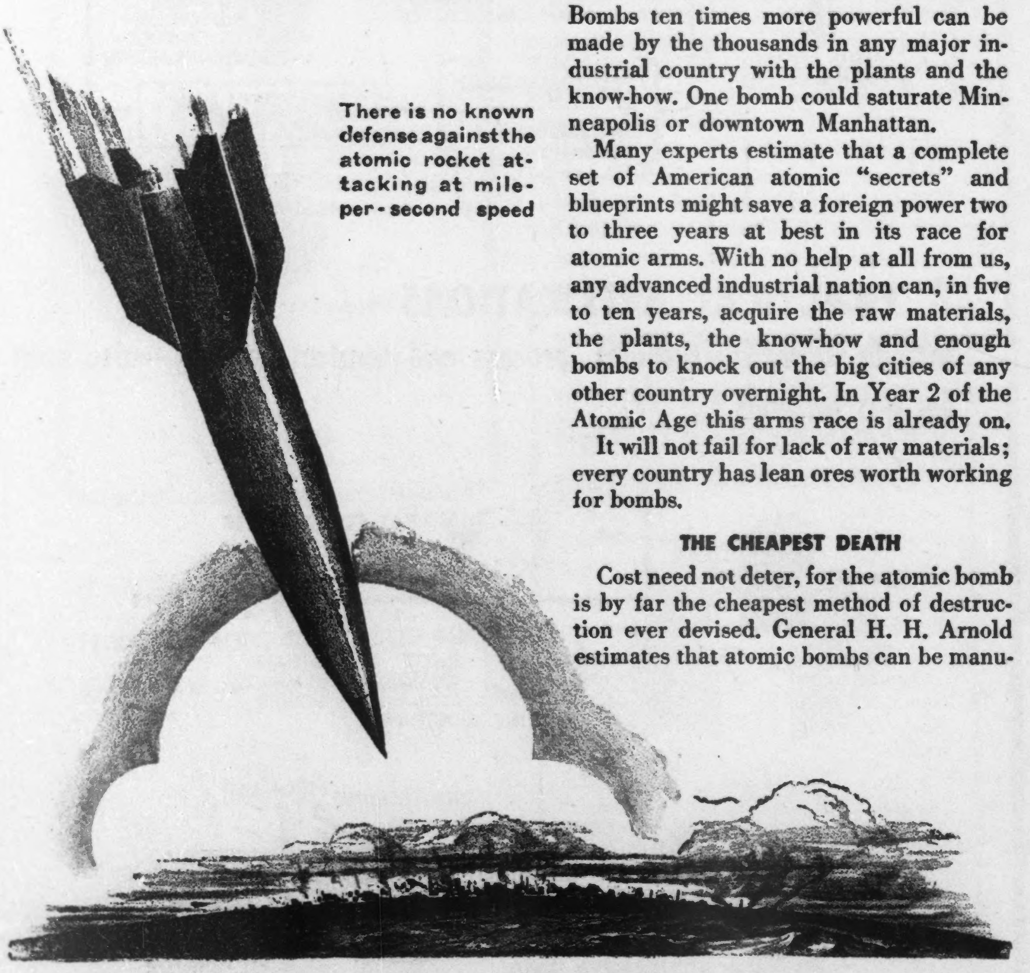
URANIUM 235 and plutonium are now man's slaves. They will build or destroy as he orders. Man dreads this vast force only because he distrusts himself. War is proof that man in the mass has never achieved self-control. He has always sought better weapons; yet the perfect weapon now brings him no satisfaction for he sees in the atom bomb his own destruction as well as that of his enemy.

The ultimate benefits of nuclear energy may well surpass its present terrors, but the terrors are here now in awful dimension, and man must face them. He must pay this price for unlocking the wealth of the inner atom.

ATOMIC BOMB

This page, then, is about the atomic bomb. Nothing will be said here that is not either a certified scientific fact or a conclusion shared by the majority of the leading scientists, engineers and statesmen who have studied the matter.

As already explained, an explosive nuclear chain reaction spontaneously sweeps through a block of U235 or plutonium when the block is rapidly enlarged beyond a certain "critical" weight X. That weight is still a military secret; the official Smyth report vaguely suggests that it is more than 4 lb and less than 200 lb. Each piece of U235 in the dormant bomb must weigh less than X. At the desired instant of explosion the bomb mechanism assembles these pieces rapidly into a single piece considerably heavier than X.


There is no known defense against the atomic rocket attacking at mile-per-second speed

The explosion itself drives the U235 pieces apart, thereby quenching the atomic conflagration before all the atoms are split, so the bomb efficiency is far less than 100%. For each pound of U235 (or plutonium) atoms actually split, the bomb releases the energy of 1400 tons of coal.

This explosion is mainly ordinary heat at work in unprecedented concentration. Bomb metals become incandescent vapor millions of degrees hot. This, and the enveloping sphere of glowing air, radiate a blinding flash that chars human flesh at half a mile and blisters at over a mile. There is a destructive shock wave (sound) and a second-long hurricane of unimaginable force — the outrushing of the expanding heated air. Deadly neutrons and gamma rays speed out from the bomb.

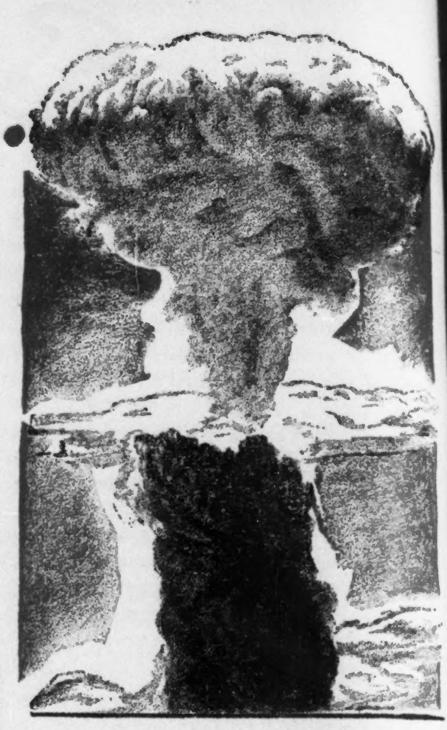
A single atomic bomb killed about 100,000 at Hiroshima. Fewer died at Nagasaki only because the circle of potential destruction included much vacant land. Bombs ten times more powerful can be made by the thousands in any major industrial country with the plants and the know-how. One bomb could saturate Minneapolis or downtown Manhattan.

Many experts estimate that a complete set of American atomic "secrets" and blueprints might save a foreign power two to three years at best in its race for atomic arms. With no help at all from us, any advanced industrial nation can, in five to ten years, acquire the raw materials, the plants, the know-how and enough bombs to knock out the big cities of any other country overnight. In Year 2 of the Atomic Age this arms race is already on.

It will not fail for lack of raw materials; every country has lean ores worth working for bombs.

THE CHEAPEST DEATH

Cost need not deter, for the atomic bomb is by far the cheapest method of destruction ever devised. General H. H. Arnold estimates that atomic bombs can be manufactured *and delivered* for less than $500,000 per square mile of destruction.


A single improved atomic bomb can devastate ten square miles of city

Don't be misled by the two billion dollars America spent on a project that dropped only two bombs on the enemy. New plants can be built at a fraction of wartime cost, and the investment spread over thousands of bombs, not just two.

NO DEFENSE

So the bombs can be made in ample quantity and paid for, but can they be delivered? The answer is: "Yes; by the time the bombs are ready they can be delivered anywhere and overnight." If the defenses of the target country are weak, piloted planes can get through in ample number. Ten percent would be enough.

For more effective delivery radio-steered pilotless planes and rockets can carry the atom bombs faster than sound. Such weapons will be almost untouchable by either antiaircraft artillery or manflown fighters.

Greatest threat of all will be the transoceanic rockets. The German V-2 rocket, which never once was stopped by Britain's defenders, points one way. It needs only transatlantic range (with atomic propulsion) and an atomic bomb in the nose. Forty-six feet long, loaded with 7500 lb of alcohol fuel and 11,000 lb of liquid oxygen, the V-2 of World War II rose 60 miles in the air and arced 200 miles in five minutes to deposit one ton of TNT in London.

Seeing so many strange things come to pass, the man in the street cannot distinguish between possible miracles and the impossible variety. From the very start of the Atomic Age he has been hoping for a "ray" that will explode the atom bomb far off. Competent scientists and engineers say that cannot be.

The only way to bring down a 3500-mile-per-hour rocket at a safe distance is to chase it with your own 4000-mph rocket. You can't win at this game often enough to establish ironclad protection.

The only specific defense against the atomic rocket known in Year 2 of the Atomic Age is to disperse all cities and put key industries underground. This would be very costly in time, money and national morale.

MORE AND BETTER BOMBS?

Some will ask whether the U.S., as the most powerful industrial nation, could not build more and better bombs and carriers than any other nation. Probably yes, but there is still no real security. If the "weak" opponent has enough atomic weapons to destroy us once, what advantage is there in being able to destroy him twice?

Shooting first could protect us now, but not after the world is atomically armed. If we were to destroy the enemy's cities, we would probably miss his well-concealed and protected bomb magazines and rocket launchers. A few minutes later he could return the atomic fire. In brutal simplicity, that is the picture of future atomic war. Everybody loses.

At this point one grasps at another straw: "If everybody is to lose who would be so foolish as to start an atomic war? And didn't the Germans refrain from using gas for a similar reason?" Possibly yes. It *may* work that way. But in a world atomically armed to the teeth some nervous finger *may* pull the fatal trigger.

ONLY ONE WAY OUT

Throughout history each new offensive weapon has called out its appropriate defense. But now the offense leaps centuries ahead in a single bound and the defense lies almost helpless everywhere, unless some technical protection, unknown as Year 2 begins, can be devised.

The situation is extremely dangerous. There is no clear way out except through some sort of international action first to stop the atomic arms race and, before it is too late, to hobble war itself.

Can it be done? Perhaps not, but there is no alternative except atomic chaos.

...so he faces the Atomic Dilemma...

THE NUMBERED statements that follow in somewhat logical pattern are too fateful to be accepted on anybody's say-so. Every reader should test them in the light of his own information and understanding.

The points below sum up the conclusions of the previous article — and these in turn reflect a great mass of thought and discussion among leading scientists, engineers and statesmen close to the problem. To an amazing degree they concur on both facts and conclusions. For authoritative statements of their line of thought, in detail not possible here, the reader should see the recent book, *One World or None.*

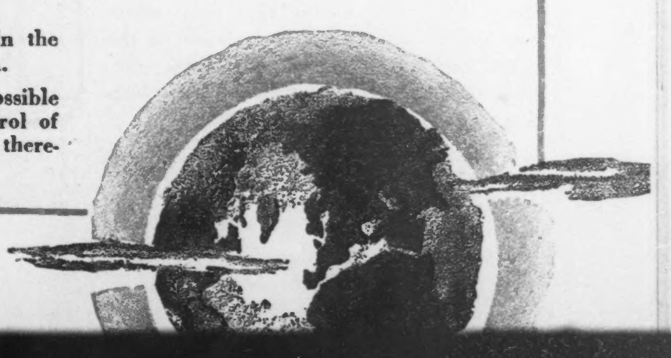
THE DILEMMA

Nations must either face the probability of an atomic World War III, which would surely be the most deadly in history . . .

***Or*, the experts propose, yield both atomic weapons and war potential to international authority backed by superior force.**

What the Experts Say

1. In five to ten years any major industrial nation can make enough atom bombs to destroy all the major cities of any other country overnight.
2. This assumes no "secret" information or other help from us.
3. The necessary uranium ores will be at hand.
4. The cost will not be too high.
5. The bombs produced can then be carried thousands of miles by bombers, or by atomically powered guided missiles moving faster than sound.
6. There will probably be no effective military defense against such weapons.
7. Dispersing cities, and putting key industries deep underground, will give some protection if accomplished in time, but at incredible cost in money and human discomfort.
8. In a world atomically armed, nations can probably protect their bomb stocks and rocket launchers from enemy assault.
9. If so, nation A can destroy the cities of any other nation B, after which B's rockets will destroy the cities of A. Shooting first will not win an atomic war.
10. This knowledge may not restrain the trigger finger of a suspicious power.
11. Having more and better atomic weapons than the other fellow won't help much if he has enough to destroy us. No use to kill a man twice or rebomb urban ruins.
12. Every nation is vulnerable in the Atomic Age, including the U. S. A.
13. National security will be impossible without (first) international control of atomic arms and (not too long thereafter) international control of all war potential, both backed by superior physical power.
14. If action to this end is long delayed, it may become impossible to halt the atomic arms race already started.
15. At best, the necessary degree of international control, with some real delegation of national sovereignty, will be a revolution in human affairs. It may prove to be humanly unobtainable at this time. If so, men and women everywhere must face the probability of an atomic third world war—by far the most destructive in all history.



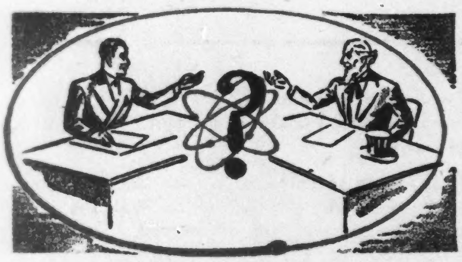
In this atomic age no nation can be safe through its own unaided might

...and the Great Debate unfolds

Atom Year 1 has probably been marked by more debate on a single subject than any other twelve months in the world's history. Social, economic and political as well as purely technical issues have been pressing for realistic solution. Let us look at these issues and see where we stand:

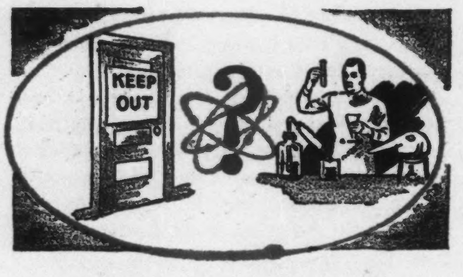
CIVILIAN VS. MILITARY

Because the atomic bomb is the world's greatest weapon, the armed forces would like to control it. But because atomic energy can also be used for peaceful, beneficial purposes, civilian control seems equally essential. These conflicting viewpoints had their strong proponents before the Congress which finally reached a fairly satisfactory compromise in the Atomic Energy Bill of 1946, setting up a competent civil board with which the armed forces will have continuing liaison. As we go to press, just before Year 2 of the Atomic Age begins, this bill has passed the Senate, but there is still a question how rapidly it will be enacted into law.



PRIVATE VS. PUBLIC

Atomic energy is "too big" and "too hot" to be handled privately. It must be nationalized and internationalized. The questions are *how* and *to what extent*. Fortunately, as the "boxes" on these pages show, there are means that may attain reasonable safety against misuse of the atom, and still do so without public control of many "non-dangerous" applications.



SECRECY VS. FREE SCIENCE

Throughout the first year of the Atomic Age hot debate has raged around "keeping the secret of the bomb." To prevent potential enemies from making atom bombs some have urged a complete blackout of all phases of atomic energy — even of the scientific fundamentals of nuclear physics. Others have sought immediate and complete disclosure of all bomb "secrets," both scientific and technological. These have held that such information cannot be effectively hidden, that secrecy blocks progress and breeds wars.

A year of debate has brought the great mass of vocal opinion to this middle ground: (1) Ease restrictions on the exchange of basic physical knowledge. (2) Release for industry's benefit many of the devices and methods developed for the bomb project. (3) Hold tight to specialized information on atomic bombs and bomb-material production until international safeguards are fully operative.

DOMESTIC CONTROL AS PLANNED IN THE ATOMIC ENERGY BILL OF 1946

McMahon Committee Bill contains the following provisions.

Policy. Declares it the policy of the U. S. to develop and utilize atomic energy to improve the public welfare, increase living standards, strengthen competitive enterprise and promote world peace.

Organization. Establishes the Atomic Energy Commission (AEC) of five administrators to direct four divisions on research, production, engineering, and military applications—to work in liaison with three committees from (1) the armed forces, (2) outstanding civilians, and (3) joint Congressional representatives.

Production. AEC to own and operate (under management contracts with industry if deemed desirable) all facilities for the production of fissionable materials, such products to be distributed with their radioactive byproducts under license for private industrial and medical research.

Military Application. AEC to engage in development work and produce atomic bombs as directed by the President, to be delivered only on his order to the Armed Forces.

Industrial Utilization. Permits AEC to conduct research, design and manufacture equipment for atomic-energy utilization, license its use, produce and sell power obtained as a byproduct in the production of fissionable materials. Directs AEC to give widest safe scope to private initiative.

Control of Information. AEC to enforce a ban on the dissemination of restricted data that might be used to injure the U. S. or secure advantage to a foreign nation, yet to provide leeway for ultimately relaxing restrictions as future conditions warrant.

Patents and Inventions. No private patents permitted for production of fissionable materials or their utilization for military weapons, but AEC will justly compensate for such inventions, when made by private citizens. Patents for non-military applications may be purchased or condemned by the AEC only when public interest is affected.

Appropriations. "Such sums as may be necessary and appropriate to carry out the purposes and provisions of the act" *plus* unexpended funds of the Manhattan Engineer District.

while Time runs out

NATIONAL VS. INTERNATIONAL

Born of nationalism, the Atomic Age began when three nations discovered a weapon that today gives them the greatest military power on earth. The prime question is: Shall the atom remain the servant of its conqueror, nationalism?

During Year 1 of the Atomic Age the Truman-Atlee-King declaration, the masterly report of the State Department's atomic consultants, and the U.S. representative on the United Nations Atomic Energy Commission, have all called for international control of atomic energy. Year 2 will start with no such control. This failure to decide and act is in part a natural result of the extreme difficulty of the problem and the obvious dangers of unwise decisions. Nations everywhere face a triple dilemma in this Atomic Year 2: the dangers of nationalism, the dangers of internationalism, the supreme danger of not being able to make any decision in time to meet the atomic bomb threat.

INTERNATIONAL CONTROL AS PROPOSED BY THE U.S. TO U.N. ATOMIC COMMISSION

Baruch statement follows constructive path laid out by Atomic Consultants in "Acheson-Lilienthal Report."

The Plan. The U. S. has proposed that all nations band together to outlaw the use of atomic energy for war and to promote and harness its development for the benefit of mankind. To this end an International Atomic Development Authority would be set up, and to it the U. S. would turn over, at various stages of its organization, all atomic bombs, know-how, raw materials, facilities, and stockpiles of fissionable material. Thus IADA eventually would supersede national authorities on some matters and supplement them on others.

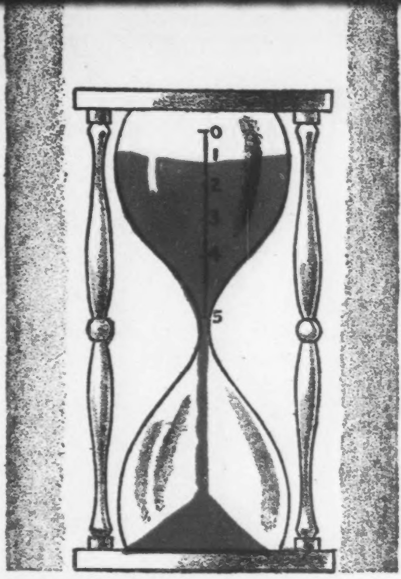
Owner and Operator. IADA would take over from national authorities or private ownership full management and control of all atomic energy matters that afford a possible threat to World security. These include:

1. Raw Materials—Supplies of uranium and thorium to be inventoried, controlled, and developed by IADA.
2. Facilities—IADA to control and operate plants producing fissionable materials and to own and control their products.
3. Research—IADA to undertake research and development on all aspects of atomic energy and to possess exclusive right of research on atomic explosives.

Private Initiative. Will have its chance to push forward the use of atomic energy for peacetime (non-dangerous) purposes. With IADA providing raw materials and carrying out necessary inspection, national and private enterprise may operate "safe" power piles, and produce and use radioactive isotopes for research, clinical and other applications. Radioactive isotopes produced by IADA also can be distributed for peacetime use.

The Mechanics of Safety. No plan is a certain guarantee against future atomic war. This plan should, however, prevent surprise attack with atomic weapons; for IADA is to buttress positive ownership or management controls with wide powers of inspection. Obviously, successful inspection rests on complete freedom of access or egress in any area.

Sanctions. At the heart of the plan lies the problem of penalty for violation — a matter for profound statecraft. To the U.S., one aspect of sanctions appears crystal clear: Here is an area where the veto right now held by the five great Powers must be redefined if it is not to be incompatible with the meaning and purpose of the proposed control.



Leading industrial nations can produce atomic bombs in five years, competent scientists announced after Hiroshima. Already one year of the precious five has been consumed in debate without international action. Soon it may be too late to check the growing momentum of the atomic arms race.

TIMETABLE—ATOM YEAR 1

1. **July 16, 1945.** World's first atomic bomb detonated in New Mexico.
2. **July 26, 1945.** President Truman and Prime Minister Churchill issue Potsdam ultimatum threatening Japan's destruction if she continues.
3. **August 6, 1945.** Atomic bomb dropped on Hiroshima.
4. **August 9, 1945.** Atomic bomb hits Nagasaki.
5. **August 11, 1945.** Army releases Smyth Report on "Atomic Energy for Military Purposes."
6. **August 14, 1945.** Japan accepts terms of Potsdam declaration.
7. **November 15, 1945.** Truman-Atlee-King issue declaration of intention and procedures looking toward international control of atomic energy by United Nations.
8. **March 28, 1946.** State Department issues Acheson-Lilienthal Report on the "International Control of Atomic Energy."
9. **April 12, 1946.** Manhattan Engineer District announces program for experimental development of atomic power.
10. **June 1, 1946.** "Atomic Energy Bill of 1946" passes Senate unanimously, is referred to House of Representatives.
11. **June 14, 1946.** First meeting of United Nations Atomic Energy Commission (Bernard Baruch as American member). Manhattan District announces availability of radioactive isotopes for research use.
12. **July 1946.** Joint Army-Navy tests of atomic bombs at Bikini.

. . . but if Man Masters Atom.

IF MUTUAL DESTRUCTION by the atomic bomb can be avoided, the first century of the atomic age will bring immense advances in scientific knowledge, health and living standards. Already many prospective benefits can be outlined, but those we can neither foresee nor suspect may be even more important.

This prediction is grounded in scientific experience; the most fundamental discoveries have always been the most fruitful. The study of molecules gave us chemistry. Faraday's experiments with electricity and magnetism are the foundation stones of the great electrical industry. Can one expect any less from an understanding of the heart of every atom?

BENEFITS

Atom-splitting benefits clearly visible today fall mainly in three classes: (1) heat and power applications of the uranium piles; (2) general industrial applications of equipment and methods originally developed for the bomb project; (3) chemical, biological and medical uses of the "tagged atoms" (radioactive isotopes) now abundantly available from pile operation.

It is now evident that the energy yield of the U235 in an atomic pile can be multiplied many times by returning to (or leaving in) the pile the plutonium and possibly the U233 produced respectively from the U238 and the thorium in the pile. This is an indirect way to "burn" inexpensive U238 and thorium, and thus greatly extend the supply and reduce the cost of atomic fuels.

POWER APPLICATIONS

Although present piles run at low temperatures, it is certain that temperatures high enough for the efficient operation of steam and gas turbines will be attained. Already an experimental atomic power plant has been ordered. Atomic power for certain remote installations (say, for heating Arctic airports) may not be far off.

In five or ten years uranium piles will be driving a few experimental ships and submarines. In 20 or 30 years uranium may begin to compete widely with coal as a fuel for suitably situated large central heating and power plants. The 50-ton minimum weight of shielding rules out nuclear power for automobiles and small piloted planes.

SPECIAL USES

Some day ultra-high temperatures from splitting atoms will be used for special industrial operations on metals and other materials. Even the dread atomic bomb might easily serve peaceful ends — blasting lakes in deserts, changing the course of rivers, leveling mountains.

INDUSTRIAL BYPRODUCTS

The special industrial equipment and methods developed for the bomb project will find hundreds of important uses — mostly for purposes unrelated to atomic energy. These developments include pumps with neither seals nor leaks, leak detectors of amazing sensitivity, ultratight welding, a portable mass spectograph for quick and automatic gas analysis, new ways of handling corrosive and poisonous materials, new diffusion barriers for the separation of gases and of petroleum products.

TAGGED ATOMS

Yet more important than any of these, in the long run, will be the hundreds of radioactive isotopes now available as byproducts of pile operation. Chemically indistinguishable from the ordinary forms of the elements, these isotopes serve as tagged atoms or "spies" if mixed with common stable atoms of the same species. They "fly with the flock," and can later be identified as surely as banded birds. With these amazing tools of research, the course of any element or compound may be traced through the bodies of men, animals and plants. Similarly, tagged atoms may be used in studying the course of many kinds of industrial and chemical operations.

BIOLOGY AND MEDICINE

A suspected hyperthyroid condition can be diagnosed by feeding the patient a minute measured amount of radioactive iodine. The click of a "Geiger" counter placed on the patient's neck will tell (1) what percentage of the swallowed iodine concentrates in the thyroid cells and (2) how rapidly that concentration is accomplished — giving a definite indication of the state of the gland.

In similar fashion the radioactive isotopes of hydrogen, oxygen and carbon will trace out the intricate transformations of carbohydrates and proteins in the human body. Radioactive phosphorus will explore the bones. Radioactive iron will show how and where blood cells are formed. Radioactive sodium will time the circulation of blood.

USES IN INDUSTRY

In chemistry the radioactive isotopes will speed the understanding of metallurgical and organic reactions. In industry they will measure flow, detect leaks, and do other useful work.

Meanwhile the uranium piles will be manufacturing certain radioactive isotopes that can serve as cheap but effective substitutes for high-cost medical radium.

KNOWLEDGE COMES FIRST

It is already clear that the chief benefits of atom splitting will come first as new scientific knowledge rather than as new engines and gadgets. But in the long run man's new understanding of the inner atom will enrich the whole range of human activity. This has always been the case with less fundamental discoveries in science. It can hardly be less with this most fundamental discovery.

ATOM SPLITTING WILL SERVE MAN IN:

CENTRAL POWER PLANTS

GIANT BLASTING OPERATIONS

MEDICAL DIAGNOSIS AND TREATMENT

NEW FUNDAMENTAL KNOWLEDGE

SHIP POWER PLANTS

BETTER INDUSTRIAL PROCESSES

RESEARCH TECHNIQUES